

# BLUE GRASS BLADE

A. T. Fisher  
Fifth and Ashland East Side  
Spokane, Idaho

WE AIM TO CUT DOWN ERROR AND ESTABLISH TRUTH

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## ROME BOOK

### PAISED BY PRESS AND PEOPLE

Opinion Upon Its Merits As a Contribution To American Freethought Literature and Its Value For Real Missionary Effort in the Cause of Intellectual Freedom.

READ WHAT OTHERS SAY AND IF YOU HAVE NOT A COPY GET ONE.

The value of the Rome Book, by Dr. J. B. Wilson, to the cause of Freethought, is amply demonstrated by the many comments made upon it by the Freethought press of America and the numerous commendatory letters that are coming in from Freethought publications over the land.

The Blade has urged from time to time the necessity of securing a wider distribution of this book as a missionary undertaking for it is well calculated to open the eyes of the orthodox wherever one can be found with courage enough to read it. The book ought to have another edition and then another for it is complete, unanswerable and will stand as an important part of American literature.

If there are any Freethinkers who have not read the book, or are in doubt concerning its merits, let them read what the press and the people have to say about it in the following comments:

From the Searchlight.  
"A Trip to Rome," is the title of a book written by Dr. J. B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and published by the Blue Grass Blade, of Lexington, Ky.

Dr. Wilson was one of the few Americans in attendance at the International Freethought Congress that convened in the City of Rome, Italy, September 21, 1904, and this book contains an account of that Congress and of the writer's travels elsewhere during that trip.

Books of travel are not always as original and striking as is this one. Dr. Wilson has succeeded in relating the story of what he saw and heard, and in conveying to the reader his impressions thereof, in a most charming manner. It is in no way an echo of some guide-book, as so many of such publications are.

Dr. Wilson seems to have looked through his own eyes at what he saw; likewise he listened with his own ears at what he heard, and then of all he wrote the impressions thus created in his mind.

From Higher Science.  
Dr. John B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, O., whose portrait is presented this month as Frontispiece, is one of the best known Atheists in America, and one who is probably doing as much, or more, to free humanity from the mental slavery of superstition and the physical slavery of capitalism than any other one person on this continent.

I first remember him in the U. S. District Court at Cincinnati, fighting in defense of the late Editor C. C. Moore of the Blue Grass Blade, who had the habit of telling too much truth about "our dear heavenly father" and "our blessed savior" to suit the religious bosses. As you remember, he was persecuted for a long time and sent to the Ohio State prison for two years, but was finally rescued by Dr. Wilson's untiring energy and ability as a liberal advocate.

Dr. Wilson was elected President of the American Secular Union in 1898 and later President of the National Liberal Party—now the American Freethought Association. During his term of office as President of the latter body he was sent as American delegate to represent us at the International Liberal Congress, held at Rome in September, 1904, and of which he has written a most interesting and instructive book, "A Trip to Rome." Dr. Wilson is still a young man, full of force and energy and it is to be hoped that Freethinkers will see to it that his great ability will hereafter be kept busily employed in travel and publishing.

To those who can afford to buy his works, let me say you can

always find them in our Los Angeles Liberal Club Library.

The leaves are about the size of this magazine and there are 350 pages, every one of which is filled with good things. It is a book that no Freethinker should be without and it would be a good thing if every Christian in this country would read it. It has a fine half-tone of Dr. Wilson's portrait and also one of the monument of Giordano Bruno, the last great scientist the church ever dared to burn at the stake. Every reader of Higher Science should have this splendid book.

From the Humanitarian Review.  
This is a book that should be of great interest to the general reader on account of its vivid and instructive narrative of a European trip by a wide-awake observer and of special interest to all Rationalists on account of its quite full report of the great World's Congress of Freethinkers at Rome in 1904. It is a book that will show "How Pagan Rome Became Christian" and "Churches of Rome." The book contains a good portrait of the author, which adds much to its value to the reader's hearts of admirers among the Liberals of America. Not having yet finished my reading of the book, I hope to be able to speak of it at greater length at some time in the near future. The author, in his preface, says this about it:

"I have aimed to hold the mirror up to nature, giving the reader a glimpse of sea and sky, of sunshine and storm, of mountain and valley, of landscape and city, of agriculture and manufacture, of history and geography, of architecture and ruins, of government and church of poetry and art, of science and progress, of the moral and social conditions, and of all those objects most famous and commonly known to the American mind."

"This, of his travels and sight-seeing on sea and land, but to the great Congress he devotes seventy pages of the book—to my mind the most valuable portion of it."

From the Liberal Review.  
"A Trip to Rome," by Dr. J. B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, well known as a prolific and versatile writer of prose and verse, comes as a new volume. He was the representative at the Rome convention in 1904 of the National Liberal Party, and has not only given expression to his experiences while acting as a delegate to that convention, but also narrated his impressions of civic and moral conditions in different cities of Europe visited by him. Also his criticisms of Medieval art as expressed on canvas and in marble and architecture strike a responsive chord.

From Tomorrow.  
One of the most valuable contributions to recent freethought literature is "A Trip to Rome," by Dr. J. B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, James E. Hughes, Lexington, Ky., publisher.

The book contains 350 pages, is well bound, and gives a full account of Dr. Wilson's trip to the Holy City as President of the American Freethought Congress, which convened in Rome, September 21, 1904.

Dr. Wilson has spared no pains in his effort to take his friends with him on his wonderful trip, for besides his account of the great Liberal Congress in Rome, the titles of the various chapters here give a splendid idea of what the reader may expect.

Chapter I is entitled the Ocean Voyage, and then follows Stratford upon Avon, London, Paris, up the Rhine, Switzerland, Italy, Venice, The Doges' Palace, Florence, Rome, the Great Liberal Congress, How Pagan Rome Became Christian, Churches of Rome, Naples, Pompeii and Capri and Homebound.

The author has taken unusual pains to bring all the features of his trip into vivid display for the benefit of his readers and no Freethinker should be without this book.

From the Ingersoll Beacon.  
Dr. J. B. Wilson, of Cincinnati, has the thanks of the Ingersoll Beacon Co. for a copy of his book, "A Trip to Rome."

We have only read a part of it as yet, but it is so much to our credit as to say that it is an exceptionally interesting and instructive volume. We bespeak a large circulation for it and hope to soon have it on sale at the Beacon office.

Thaddeus B. Wakeman. Reviews "A Trip to Rome."

"This is the most real, vivid, lively and evidently true book of European travel yet out. Those who begin it will surely finish it, and then feel that Dr. Wilson has practically taken them

## WITH ITS SWEET LAUGH

Even a Little Child Shall Lead Them Into the Path of Right Doing and Wholesome Moral Virtue To Useful Life.

WHAT WOMEN CAN DO WHEN THEY GET TOGETHER.

(BY HELEN H. PULLBRICK.)

Dear Brother and Sister Freethinkers and Socialists:

After a long struggle—some twenty-five years—with theological superstitions for morality, later with a brief but severe struggle with the political forces which employ these superstitions to entrap the people, I have discovered the secret of the whole chaotic mixture is a little word of three letters, a LIE. Not many lies, but one lie lay back in the "beginnings." So without too much elaboration I want to tell you (as our Spiritualist medium friends say) that instead of trying to aid my groaning protest to the ever increasing woes of our property that means only the mighty "rise"—of one end of the social balance—that of itself insures the fall, I mean to try my hand at teaching a really and truly Sunday School taking up all three of the branches of the Freedom movement: Freethought, Socialism and the moral morality between the sexes. I have but one pupil that I am assured of. It is a bright, girl, live, earnest reasoning little girl of eight years who claims ancestry on both sides the house from the old Massachusetts stock that came over on the Mayflower for the right to think.

We are several degrees freer now than then, but it seems there is more in the air today pertaining other revolutions, possibly more than in thought; and it seems to me, there is a possibility of beginning a moral teaching of the wee ones, that, including the principles of Socialism (for a building up and promise) added to the tearing down of the old capitalistic orthodox falsehood, might be broad and inclusive enough to put down the opposition to moral teachings on new basis and insure a certain degree of harmonious reasoning even in the hotbed of orthodox blindness. Time and experience will prove if I am right or not, and in the mean time, for greater length, am going to ask of you all, cooperation to this extent: Will you please send me humorous poems showing forth the ridiculous of the orthodox capturing proposition that takes away the right to think (orthodox) in order to hold us up to the fleece our pockets? I am sure many of you will have clippings of a humorous nature, that can be read and recited, that will bring home the truth better than long harangues, especially when given by the children. Will you have no political interests at stake.

A select few of the most advanced thinkers (women thinkers) in the city are all ready to co-operate and supply a few more poems.

We shall show that children go to public school today to learn in the arithmetic the scientific methods of stealing which they must always follow in if they wish to steal and not get caught; but that, until they may live in the co-operative commonwealth they must learn this scientific stealing and become apt in it or become a common beggar.

We shall call things by their names, look up roots of words and histories of words and try in every way to show the babies the truth by the natural evolutionary processes. Possibly some of you can parody old time songs and poems to suit the occasion and the ideal. If you can, we will esteem it a favor. We have for a part of our wall decoration and lesson—foundations, charts by T. B. Wakeman and Lester Ward which nicely show the truth about evolution of man and religion.

We also have donated a large cool and commodious room for our exclusive use. Cartooning of the orthodox falsehoods as well as the capitalistic robbery will be welcomed and gratefully received as accretions to our wall and to use as illustrations to lessons.

It seems to an old teacher in the public schools, nothing short of cowardice and folly for the socialistic and freethought women to hesitate to "step out boldly in Sunday School teaching of the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; but with a rare few exceptions I find all women cowards who like to be led by the nose by their

male "superiors." I do not believe Socialism will ever in the world be taught by a suppressed rebellion, till women will take the public teaching of children out of the hands of ministers and the church, and teach it from a "truthful basis. I see no hope for married men, till woman's reason, backed by courage comes to the rescue. Am I mistaken?

Cor. Amabel and Dayton avenue, Los Angeles, Cal.

## THE VALUE OF ORGANIZATION

A Few Words of Encouragement From the National Organizer of the Church of Humanity.

(BY W. H. KERR.)

In the progress of knowledge through experience, observation and investigation, it is the duty of every few people that all Gods, devils and Holy Ghosts are fabulous beings, heaven and hell myths and death the termination of conscious life.

Those people are now writing in the Church of Humanity, to enable them to promulgate their discoveries and hand them down to their posterity, that may be saved from idolatry thereby.

On January 1, 1907, the church had 141 members. May of the Blade readers are among the number. All of them should be.

The first 1,000 members will be the founders and charter members of this church, nationally, and the national delegates convention of the church to formally organize and incorporate it.

The balance of the Blade readers should seize this opportunity to unite with the church at once.

Please copy the following application for membership and answer all the questions correctly. Then forward it to me to be recorded in the Church Roll book.

My name is to be a fabulous being. I desire to be a graduate of graduation in the knowledge of God, and life membership in the Church of Humanity. Name, address, age, sex, occupation, nationality, language, previous church?

Add 25 cents for a year's subscription to the church paper, "The Truth About God." Address all to the International Organizer, W. H. Kerr, Grand Bend, Kansas.

## ROMISH EDITOR ON WOMEN

Discusses the Dizzy Females of Biblical History and Pronounces Them As Wicked and Senseless. Just a Frank Statement.

COMMENT ON ARTICLE BY A BLADE CONTRIBUTOR.

(BY E. H. BURNHAM.)

One of our western newspapers says:

The reading public has always thought of the venerable Judge Gough, editor of the Catholic Sentinel, as a chivalrous old chap, but the following from his paper will be apt to make many change their opinion:

Bible Women.

It is a notable fact that all the women mentioned in the Bible were wicked and selfish. Eve forced Adam into eating the forbidden fruit. Abraham's wife Sarah, first made her husband begot children, on her hand herself, who when Isaac was born, to herself, who insisted on sending Hagar and her child away into the wilderness in hopes that they might die.

Rebecca the wife of Isaac entered into a vile conspiracy with her son Jacob, to deceive her old blind husband, and secure the blessing for her favorite, Jacob's wife Rachel used to sell her husband by the night to her sister Leah, and when she was leaving her father's house, she stole the old man's Gods, and hid them in a camel furniture on which she sat and told him a lie which put him off the scent. Moses' wife quarreled with him on the way to Egypt and called him a bloody husband, so that he was obliged to send her back to him. Father, his sister, Miriam, the poetess, abused him until the Lord took pity on him and smote her with leprosy, on account of her bad tongue. Job's wife was a tarmagant of the first water.

(Continued on Page Four)

## BEWARE THE CLOVEN FOOT

revealed in Work of National Reform Association Which is Again Trying to Get into Federal Constitution.

SOME OF THEIR CORRESPONDENCE PUBLISHED.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

With this I send you a copy of a letter received by a neighbor of mine who wrote to the Rev. William F. Crafts for information as to the purpose of The National Reform Association.

The copy is the same words as the original. One aspect is the letter itself and the other is the heading to it.

The circular part belongs in this open space at the top, but I could not confine myself to their boundaries and kicked over limits just as I would any other theological restrictions. They go to it all in fine print. The fine hand of the said association is at work in this State now. The ministers of the State are circulating petitions to the legislature to submit an amendment to the State Constitution, that it may be changed so that the Sunday laws may be made constitutional.

The whole clerical influence of the East is being centered on Calif to make her have a Sunday law whether she wants it or not.

The Freethinkers of the United States who cannot even make an organization will sit up some 34, and take notice, when they find themselves in straight jackets, and the clericals in control of the government.

I send you also a circular being distributed by the Seventh Day Adventists.

You can use these as you see fit.

A FRIEND.

The letter is written on the stationery of the society which is elaborately gotten up and gives a long string of name of preachers who are officers of the society. In the center of the letter head is a circle, descriptive of "Full Orbed Christianity" and showing the "Divided Hemisphere." On one side of the orb is printed the following: God, Heaven, Heaven, Love to God, Duty, Disinterestedness, Decentral Standards, Justification by Faith, The Minister's Sacred Desk, The Salvation of Individuals, The Saviorship of Jesus, the glory of God, Gifts to Charles, Heart Worship, The Lord's Day, Prayerful Worshipping, Look Up, Save Men, We.

In juxtaposition as if implying the opposite the above and which is certainly far superior, we read, Man, Human Brotherhood, Ethical Standards, Justice to Employers, The Merchant's Sacred Desk, Regeneration of Society, The Kinship of Christ, The Kingdom of God, Gifts to Reform, Divine Service, Anne Dutton, Philanthropy, Lift Up, Save Man, Vote, We.

As for the letter itself it will speak in more forcible arguments than any I could make and it should warn all liberals and patriots to be fully aware of the cloven foot which is now displayed so openly. The letter reads:

206 Pennsylvania Ave., S. E., Washington, D. C.

July 27, 1906.

Mr. Santa Monica, Calif.

Dear Sir and Brother:—Your favor of July 18th to Dr. Crafts is in hand and in his absence we will say that according to our understanding the main purpose of the National Reform Association is to get the name of God into the Constitution of the United States.

The Association also gives lively attention to the Sabbath and we believe that Dr. Wiley, Secretary of the Association, has recently published a valuable book giving the Sabbath laws of all States. All States have California, Idaho and the District of Columbia. We are doing all that we can to secure a proper law for this District, but have been balked for many years by the Seventh Day Adventists, 25,000 of whom do more petitioning than twenty-six millions of Christians. The Wadsworth bill passed the House this last session but it gave a mere fragment of a good Sunday law, closing provision stores only. We have been awaiting the Allen bill, copy of which we enclose.

For further information in regard to the National Reform Association we

will be glad to answer you.

Yours truly,  
W. H. KERR, National Organizer.

Many readers of the Blade are FOUNDERS and CHARTER MEMBERS of the CHURCH OF HUMANITY. All should be. For two decades ask the INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZER, W. H. KERR, Grand Bend, Kansas. Enclose 25 cents for the church paper, "The Truth About God."

It is Our Fault.

Reason, O—I write you these few lines in regard to my paper. For the last six months my paper comes from a week to ten days late, and my last one came two weeks late. I received the issue of December 30th on January 12th which puts me two copies short. I don't want to complain, but I would like you would mail my paper as soon as possible so that it will make different connections and not be carried all around. I am always anxious for my paper. I am sending you a few clippings by same mail. You may take my name for one of the Moore books when completed.—JOHN McFARLAND.

would suggest that you write to Dr. McAllister, editor of the Christian Statesmen, Allegheny, Penna.

Yours for a better country and a better world here and now.

B. B. BASSETT, Gen'l Sec'y.

## HOW IT LOOKS TO A FREETHINKER

American Press Toddlers To the Church While Partially Ignoring Mass Meeting in Name of Freedom.

(BY A FRIEND.)

The following news item, clipped from the Boston Daily Post, of January 15, under appropriate headlines, contains intelligence that is very refreshing and I assure it will be read with deep interest by the patrons of the Blue Grass Blade:

"About 500 Italians of the North End met last evening in Union Hall, 144 North street, and discussed at length the recent controversy between the government and church in France.

Addresses were made by C. Cirino, G. Mazzarella, B. Gentile and F. Venanzi, C. F. Clampa presided.

The following resolution was transmitted into French and will be handed to the French government for transmission to the French minister of the interior:

"Whereas, the French republic with the church and state separation, law has affirmed the right of free thought and is essential in redeeming humanity from superstition and prejudice.

"Whereas, by said law an obstacle has been removed from the path of progress which will replace dogmas with science;

"Be it resolved, that we Italians of Boston in mass meeting assembled approve of the action of France in separating the church from the state and hope that Italy will soon follow her example."

On the 15th inst. the pastor of the Pope held a mass meeting in Faneuil Hall and the "Cradle of Liberty" was made to rock with bitter denunciation of the French government for its action against the Catholics. Among the speakers was Harvard professor, with a good American name, who, when he came on the stage, kissed the ring on the finger of Archbishop Somebody or other. The following day all the Boston dailies have extended reports of the meeting, under headlines made from their larger type.

Now, however, when a few hunched Italians get together and pass a series of resolutions that have the genuine ring of freedom and justice in them, their action is disposed of in the fewest possible words.

To read the report of the Faneuil Hall meeting one would be led to suppose the American Catholics were a unit in support of the policy of the Pope, but a perusal of the N. A. Review, a Catholic priest, show us that such is not the case and that the schism in the church is wide and deep and highly dangerous to the continued supremacy of the "Prisoner in the Vatican." It is very evident the "leaven of Freethought is working here as well as in all the other religious organizations and that eventually reason will be the guiding star of all the people on the earth.

ORGANIZATION.

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# THE BLUE GRASS BLADE

Published at Lexington, Kentucky, Every Sunday

Founded 1884, and edited by Charles Chilton Moore up to his death, February 7, 1906.

JAMES E. HUGHES ..... Editor and Publisher

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By mail, postpaid, \$1.50 per year, in advance.  
Trial subscription 15 cents per month.  
All foreign subscriptions, postpaid, \$2.00 per year.  
Five new subscribers sent with one remittance at \$1.00 per year each.

## ADVERTISING RATES.

ALL ADVERTISEMENTS of whatever character, accepted will be published at the rate of \$1.00 per inch per month, unless by special contract, when other and better rates will be quoted upon application. The publishers have the right to reject any and all advertisements offered.

## GENERAL BUSINESS RULES.

ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Blade will be discontinued at the expiration of the term for which the subscription has been paid up in advance. The address slip on the paper will show subscribers the date of expiration of subscription. Back numbers, or numbers omitted will be sent, if asked for, upon renewal in case of discontinuance.

MAKE ALL money orders, drafts, checks, etc., payable to JAMES E. HUGHES, Lexington, Ky., as this will facilitate collection.

SHOULD ANY SUBSCRIBER change his or her address, advise this office, giving both old and new, and the Blade will be sent to the new address, as desired.

THE OFFICE of publication of the Blade is at 55 West Short Street, Lexington, Kentucky, to which all Free-thinkers will be given a hearty welcome.

THE BLADE is entered at the Postoffice at Lexington, Kentucky, as second class mailing matter.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BLUE GRASS BLADE, P. O. Box 393, Lexington, Ky.

On with the fight.

Universal Mental Liberty.

Do you realise what that means?

Give the subject a thorough analysis.

Human reason is the flaming torch of progress.

All creeds must be tried and tested by conduct. The world demands that we try to be real men and women.

There is nothing but a vicious degradation in Christian charity.

Never abridge the equal right or privilege of any other person.

Let your works shine so that the world may know what is in you.

So shape your life that others may be better because you have lived.

It is the duty of every man to be larger and better than his money.

Free thought is a question of positive good and human usefulness to a question.

The Christian religion is left to become a monument to envy and spite.

America cannot continue as a republic and rise to the level of greatness unless orthodoxy and pauperism be eradicated.

Some New York women announce that they will attempt the "silence cure." If kept up it is warranted to kill quickly and easily.

It will long be one of our national mysteries why bandits should insist upon holding up Pullman cars instead of going after the porters.

An Illinois man committed forgery that he might maintain his "social position." Now he is able to live up to all social demands without incurring additional expense.

The Swiss who claims to have sampled 1,783 kinds of sausage, must have had more than one sitting, held a long, continuous session, or else the beer was plentiful and unusually good.

Many are kept in poverty and want, suffering and shame, without hope or prospect of improvement, simply because they do not understand to appreciate the difference between "I am willing" and "I will."

The people can again dream of peace. Roosevelt is not going to take holy orders, the Japs are not going to capture San Francisco and the Pope of Rome has launched another encyclical at the French Separation law.

Victory does not rest on every banner that goes into mighty battle. Life is a continuous battle. Many are crushed in the fight. Few meet with great triumphs. Free thought is fighting a gallant fight, but whether it shall win or not depends upon the character and ability of the men who stand behind its guns.

What have you done during the past year? Cast up your balances. Are they on the debit or credit side? Have you exerted your talents to the utmost and measured your ability to the full limit of energy for the betterment of the race? If not, why not? You can do better. See that the Blade gets

into more homes this year and let it carry the gospel of freedom and happiness to others.

The very essentials of the Christian religion depend absolutely upon the inerrancy of the scriptures. Revelation and Miracle are both necessary to support them. Lacking intrinsic truth so-called evidences are adduced in behalf of the faith which only create wider and greater doubt against which the natural recoil from one extreme to the other and it is the finality of philosophical argument and deduction.

Christian institutions and the slaves to superstitions creeds are being called upon to weep and pray with suffering priests in infidel France. Time was when the people suffered at the hands of those very same priests, but the latter never wept or prayed. Somehow their tear-glands lacked a trigger attachment and their sob machine wouldn't work. They never dreamed of that hereafter which has now come upon them with such avenging force. Weeping and praying will avail them not.

## THE CAUTIOUS AND STATISTICAL CHRIST.

There are a large number of people who express wonder and astonishment why there should exist such a wide-spread prejudice against organized charity and deery it with vigorous earnestness. Was it not John Boyle O'Reilly who once wrote:

"Organized charity, scrimped and iced,  
In the name of a cautious, statistical Christ."

and could not this sentiment have found its origin in the very conditions existing among the various associations for the disbursement of charity with which the author came in contact?

One may find both truth and poetry in the rhyme. There is never a society, under whatever name, which has for its principal business the dispensation of charity upon an organized plan, but what its workings are conducted upon a sordid business basis. They must needs prepare estimates in advance of the year's work, figures and statistics are compiled in order to show the confiding and unsuspicious public what must be done in the name of O'Reilly's "cautious" Christ that reputation may be maintained and the industry protected from criticism. Every application for alms made to these organized societies must go through unnecessary circumlocution and red tape that the term "scrimped and iced" is exceedingly and not too excessively appropriate. Its officers, while probably engaged in a worthy cause to relieve as much of human distress and suffering as possible, do not seem to realize that they are merely giving relief and cannot possibly effect a cure. If humanity is sick a cure is needed. Organized charity is an altogether improper treatment. Did justice prevail charity could be dispensed with for ever. Did justice triumph charity would become unnecessary.

Accepting this view of the situation we are in a better position to study the aggravating case that has come to light in the report made by the officers, for the year just closed, of the New York Association for Improving the Conditions of the Poor. It shows an army of high-priced, high-salaried agents and officers who make a fat living in the very name of charity, showing that the money so freely given that the poor of New York might be relieved of suffering, is diverted from the channels for which it is given and finds its way into other pockets and devoted to other purposes. That report shows the better position to study the aggravating case that has come to light in the report made by the officers, for the year just closed, of the New York Association for Improving the Conditions of the Poor. It shows an army of high-priced, high-salaried agents and officers who make a fat living in the very name of charity, showing that the money so freely given that the poor of New York might be relieved of suffering, is diverted from the channels for which it is given and finds its way into other pockets and devoted to other purposes. That report shows the

Blade does not understand why it should cost such an enormous sum of money to distribute \$93,000. Had the association disbursed millions instead of thousands it could have been done for much less money. To say that it cost \$111,000 to distribute a less sum among the unfortunate poor looks like a reckless extravagance which ought to be checked.

Of course, the money is collected in the name of Christ but it is dishd out in the name of the agent. Religion, that is the Christian religion, claims the credit for giving away \$93,000 and it must face the accusing charge of having deliberately squandered \$111,000 of other people's money. Well, indeed, did O'Reilly write,

"Organized charity, scrimped and iced,  
In the name of a cautious, statistical Christ."

## CHRISTIANITY AND PROGRESS.

No greater fallacy has ever been laid before the thinking world, no false claim ever asserted with such brazen effrontery, no such deliberate, premeditated attempt to appropriate the glory of the race with the intent to defraud and convert to their own use and benefit, than that made by the Christian world to the effect that the religion of Christ is the one, dominating factor in all our progress, our civilization.

Did the Christian people ever pause long enough

from their prayers to give the subject even the slightest thought they would soon convince themselves of the falsity and absurdity of such a claim. As a matter of fact Christianity itself, with its man-gods and ghosts, its revelations and inspirations, is but an element in progress, a result of progress, an incident in progress, marking the improvement in men's minds from the days of semi-barbarism to that period where a little thought began to operate. Savage man did not undertake to explain the phenomena of the universe, that which he did not understand. Semi-savage man tried to account for it all and then he placed a god behind every element in Nature. He did not know what was meant by god but it constituted the only answer of which he was capable. The ever-rolling billows of old ocean, the lightning's flash and the thunder's roar, the beauty of landscape, the mountain peaks, the passion of love, war, conquest, music and song, all found expression through some hidden force which he designated as god, and with the inception of Christianity they blended all gods into one and afterwards divided this one into three to suit ecclesiastical purposes. Man was still in his ignorance when Christianity entered the field, otherwise it would never have been taught.

It is no mere guess to say that man, and man alone, has wrought every change, every step in improvement, alone and unaided by any god or gods. Necessity was, with him, the mother of every invention and from the small beginnings of the dark and ignorant past his upward march can be clearly and definitely traced, marked in clear profile, step by step into the present. Just as humanity must be judged by its results so must all religions of whatsoever name be judged by what it has produced and what it is capable of producing. The only new idea brought into the world as a direct result of Christian teaching is that of a hell of fire for ever religion can boast of such an atrocious place of torment. Its crucified Christ is but a copy, a mere imitation. Its life after death and hope of immortality was taken from pre-existing cults. Its spiritualism is clearly and essentially Aesthetic and was taught long before it saw the light of day. There is nothing, but hell, that is original in the entire scheme of Christianity, and it is welcome to keep that for no other cult is desirous of claiming credit for it.

By the aid of our imagination let us penetrate the past. Here we may save the day. I knew nothing, had nothing and hardly knew enough to clothe himself. In fact he was naked and he was not ashamed. He was compelled to fight against all nature for subsistence and existence. He had no weapons, no tools, no implements of domestic use. At last he invented a bow and arrow and weapons of iron and stone. These put him upon more than equal terms with bird and beast. They gave him an increased power and authority over all animate and inanimate nature. He could bring down the eagle from its lofty flight and lay it in death agony at his feet. The lion was at his mercy and he became king over the wilderness he called home. The invention of tools and weapons made him monarch of all he saw but he was still a prey to the elements and he held in awe all he saw but could not understand. This was the first great invention made by man and god had no hand in the step forward. Indeed, god was not thought of.

The next, and perhaps the greatest invention of the age, was when man discovered fire, and the use to which it could be put. From the lion he learned the art of cooking his food and in this act man took the first great step which marked a forward movement, clearly separating him from the beast. With one mighty stride man had undertaken civilization's long and tiresome march. It was the first line of clear demarcation for he no longer ate his food raw. He could better protect himself against the rigors of winter and civilization took another great forward move.

Even with this man was still a savage and a savage he remained until he learned and acquired the art of agriculture, inducing the earth to give him a harvest of useful and needful provisions. He had not vegetable food save the natural roots of trees, leaves and fruits that grew wild about him. Agriculture soon induced an exchange of commodities and man began to learn the art of trade from which has come all our modern commerce with its intricacy and ramification of detail. The Christian religion had no part whatever in any of these undertakings and its very existence is but an incident in the history of the race, important, perhaps, because of its cruelties and butcheries. Thus, the invention of the bow and arrow, the invention of fire, and the development of agriculture, are at the base of all civilizing growth and from these humble beginnings has come our modern, mammoth-serving age. If Christianity has done ought to civilization at all its has been to subvert it from its legitimate channels, as a benefactor to all men, and to appropriate to its own use and benefit, by deliberate theft, whatever benefits have resulted therefrom. Christianity has been the cuckoo of all progress, stealing what another has made and claiming all its own.

## CONVERTED AT NINETY-FIVE.

The caption of this article is being employed by the religious press as an attractive headline for the purpose of informing the believers in the faith concerning the wonderful prowess of Rev. Chas. H. Elder, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, at Trenton, N. J., in winning to Christ from a long life in infidelity, one Adam Swope, of that city, at the advance age of ninety-five years. Of course, such an article is given prominence in the Christian Herald, published at New York, and as the big game has squawked loudly, all other foolish game are expected to keep it up.

The story as told of Mr. Swope's conversion is not even interesting. It has the same old earmarks of all similar stories. It may be true and it may be false, the chances being fairly in favor of

the latter. It contains nothing new and informs a wondering world that the preacher, aforesaid, did it all through prayer. The featured article which it given with a picture of the aged convert, is suggestive that even in this day, the professors of Christianity are glad of an opportunity to clutch at any old game which is calculated to bring a few more dollars into the treasury. We have hundreds of similar stories and they all look alike. There is a close family resemblance between them, suggestive of a very close relationship, their sire being Satan and their dam Ambition.

But is it strange that a man, after reaching the age of ninety-five years, besieged by wife and children, augmented by praying professors of religion, should yield at the last moment? Is it strange that the brain being wearied and fatigued, worn out and incapable, added to which are the ravages of sickness and disease, should induce the lips to utter a faint response to Christian prayers, especially when those prayers are given long enough for him to hear by those whom he held most dear and sacred in life? The very article in question deals a blow at its own sincerity for it incautiously admits that "shortly after his conversion Mr. Swope was suddenly taken sick and died." If the truth could be known, and that seems impossible under the circumstances, Mr. Swope was "sick" when his conversion took place, and possibly might have "died" when the announcement was made that he had been converted in order to pacify the religious hopes and aspirations of the preacher and the converted man's relatives.

The argument of infidel conversion, however, even when taken at its best, is a poor one for the cause of Christ. In Mr. Swope's case it seems that they could not convert him while he was in possession of all his mental faculties, capable of reasoning and thinking, while he was in his health and prime, but they must take advantage of him when the grave had opened its portals to receive him, old age weakened his intelligence and he had become a child again. The Christian world seems to forget that every Freethinker today, and in the past, is really a convert from Christianity and that their conversion was the result of an intellectual effort and not from a weakened mentality. All such arguments really belong to pathology and have no place in the realm of religious or non-religious thought.

In any event, The Blade did not know Mr. Swope. We never heard of him before. If he had been a "railer at creeds" he was not very prominent in that line. So far as we know he was not a subscriber to any Free thought publication. He might be on other subscription lists, but he is not on that of The Blade. He might have been an infidel and he might not have been. But the church is welcome to all it can get out of the incident as providing that, after all, the Christian religion is fit only for children and mental cripples.

## FRANCE AND THE POPE.

Premier Clemenceau of the French Republic has declared that if the Vatican starts a war with France the Vatican can have it, but the world will understand.

The Vatican, through its pope, has issued another encyclical to the French bishops urging them to resist to the utmost the Separation law and refuse to conform to its requirements.

On its face this looks like war. It may not be, but it might. Save for the disaster it may bring to the French people, every Freethinker could afford to say "Sic 'em" for in the end we know it would be the result of the intensification of church influence in France. War between the clergy and the French people would mean harm to the clergy for the people, when fully aroused, would exterminate the clergy, banish them altogether. The effect of such a struggle upon other Christian nations would be worse for the church for it would be as a flame, starting gently at first, but fanned by passion into a burning fire in which the church would be totally consumed. Italy and Spain would soon follow suit and the Pope would be without a country and a home.

The latest card from the Pope cannot exert any influence for good. It will have the effect of rousing the government of France to even a greater determination, proving to the leaders that their course was right, and with the clergy encouraged by the Vatican to resist, the strife could only result in disaster. Of course Mr. Pope may try to bring other nations into the maelstrom, but other nations will fight shy of Mr. Pope and he must be made to take his medicine even as his predecessors administered medicine of their manufacture to unwilling subjects. The Blade is pleased that the Pope has seen fit to write his latest address. It demonstrates the fanatical frenzy of the church. It makes prominent its weakness and chargin. To lose a foothold in France means disruption.

And why should not the clergy evacuate when they are not wanted and undesired? To be Christ-like they should depart from France and shake the dust from their feet. Priestlike, they desire to force by conflict their presence upon an unwilling people. The Blade hopes there will not be any armed resistance can do no good. The Pope has been ill-advised to say the least, or he has acted foolishly. The Vatican did not own France, although it might have believed that it did. If it entertained such an opinion it has been disabused of that notion now. The Pope is certainly bringing religion into politics with a vengeance and this, in itself, means much good. To be in politics secretly is bad for the people for then they become the victims of religious intrigue. To be in politics openly is better for then the people know and they can think and act accordingly. By encouraging political discussion a greater and keener intellect is brought to bear upon the political business of the country, it increases the strength of the nation and induces a quickened political activity.

With the French people the old theological spirit has flickered out. The influence of the clergy has



gone and a greater toleration exists by reason thereof. If the church remains unwilling to submit to the new order of things, then the church must accept the consequences such refusal must entail and they will fall upon their own head. The signs point to no conciliatory movement on the part of the government, no matter how much the church may desire it. Clementson, and his cabinet, have spoken and their edict has been heard by the church all over the world. Let the church heed.

#### WORKING ON A COLD TRAIL.

Upon the principle of the Pharisee who entertained the notion that all mankind was steeped in sin and iniquity with himself as the only righteous exception, and then is said to have thanked the Lord that he was not like other men, Dr. W. Montague Geer, a preacher of St. Paul, Minnesota, has started out upon a crusade to save female stenographers from the social sin by an over-indulgence with their gentlemen employers, and seeks to play grandfather to the young women of the day, in just a general way.

It is not necessary, perhaps, to cast the least doubt upon either the motives or the honesty of the reverend gentleman merely because in his zeal for womanly chastity he has fathered a rather hysterical onslaught upon the employers of girl stenographers. He is unquestionably wrong, however, when he seeks to convey the idea that even the average business or professional man is not as jealous of the honor and reputation of his woman clerks and stenographers as the doctor himself. The capable business woman of today, the broad woman, the liberal woman, the progressive woman, has, in measure, to thank the business and professional men for being honorable, appreciative and encouraging employers of young women who have dared to face the maelstrom in a desirable effort at self-maintenance and support.

Social iniquity is not to be found in this class for it is a well-known fact that there is more honor, chastity and real virtue among ten thousand typewriter girls and stenographers than Dr. Geer could find in a score of so-called society women. As a class the former are moral and are not easily tempted. This puts them where they are. Of course the preacher must find a fad and when one fades out another must be found or the game of religious reform becomes weary, uninteresting and unprofitable and soon dies out. Every avenue being closed and all ends of the reform game being played against old-timers, this modern Goliath who parts his name on the side and his hair in the middle should try other and more fruitful fields of labor.

There is a possibility that the cry "society is rotten" has moved him to attempt the manufacture of a name with something like a reputation behind it, but we have to remind him that the typewriter girls do not constitute "society." On the contrary they are far above that coterie of unclean harpies as the ad above a toy balloon. Compared with our "social set," the typewriter girl is as pure as the polar snows, self-poised and self-controlled.

#### JUST A BIT PERSONAL

There is nothing to gain by making promises which are not intended to be kept and we have studiously tried to fulfill every promise made to our readers. Many know the difficulties under which we labor. Our time does not belong to us and we are not able to give it absolutely to The Blade. We have no help upon which to depend in an emergency and it is a clear case of push.

In this week's issue will be found two letters asking about the delay in the publication of The Blade and surmising that it might be the fault of the mail authorities. Candidly, it is our own misfortune. We have never been able to get caught up, but if human power can do it we shall be up to the proper date by the time the Paine Memorial issue is published and then we can keep it up. The truth is that owing to unprecedented rainfall in this section of the country, we have been confined to our bed with sickness and unable to do anything. Just as we were about caught up after removal, this sickness overtook us and held us back. Sick men cannot put much force in their writings and with this explanation we trust our readers will indulge the delay upon the promise to get caught up as soon as we can. The next issue will be the Paine Memorial and we propose to get it out immediately.

Should any of our friends desire extra copies of the Paine issue, we would advise that they send in their orders at once. Single copies will be sent to any address for five cents, six copies for twenty-five cents.

While reading these lines forget not that you are free men and free women and measure, if you can, how much you owe to Thomas Paine! Freedom's unmounted champion he successfully overcame every obstacle and blazed the way through the long trail of darkened superstition to sublime Reason's glorious heights and there planted the flag of human liberty. Praise him, ye hosts, and magnify his name forever.

Science pays but little respect to either ancient or modern creeds and cults but plods along its appointed course as true as the needle to the pole. Environment and education cannot influence it or turn it from its lawful path. Every new demonstration it makes is another nail in the religious coffin, every new truth it demonstrates is another argument against God. These are serious days for creeds and we might ask what the preachers are going to do about it? The Christian religion being born before the war club and developed with the criminal code should be referred to the Hague peace tribunal for settlement. The more a man knows the more he doubts and an examination of the origin and development of religion signs the death warrant of dogmatism and makes us tolerant of the ideas of others.

#### MRS. HENRY'S MOTHER DEAD.

Another noble life has come to an end and the cause of Human Freedom loses another friend.

This time the Grim Reaper laid his scythe against Mrs. Mary K. Williamson, the beloved mother of that devoted champion of human rights, Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, after a long and lingering illness. Our readers can now understand the terrific strain that has been laid upon Mrs. Henry and why her pen has been silent so long.

Mrs. Williamson was just past 84 years of age when the long sleep death fell upon her. She was born in Hull, the great port on the River Humber, on the east coast of England, on the 22nd day of January, 1822. She died at the home of her distinguished daughter in Versailles, Ky., on January 25th, of the present year. The deceased was a staunch and true Freethinker and came to America with her mother and father, John and Charlotte Kirby in 1832. Her parents left England on account of the religious persecution to which they were subjected by the English Church because they were pronounced admirers of Thomas Paine.

In this may be found a notable historical fact. It proves the power of persecution to intensify righteous thought rather than to subdue or destroy. Paine meetings were held at that English home whereat the Age of Reason and the Rights of Man were thoroughly ventilated and discussed. Educated men and women were accustomed to gather at the home of the Kirbys and Mrs. Williamson, their daughter, under their guidance became a highly educated woman. The English Church learned of these meetings and organized a cause of persistent tyranny and persecution that the Kirby's emigrated to the New World which Thomas Paine had made and brought their daughter with them when she was but little more than ten years of age.

During her active life Mrs. Williamson kept in close touch with the world's progressive thought. She was well versed with all Freethought subjects and believed that the salvation of the race depended upon the ultimate triumph of rationalism. She was an ardent admirer of all the leading rationalists of Europe and America. She was a student of Haeckel, Buchner, Foote, Bradlaugh, Watts, Lady Florence Dixie, Ingersoll, Charles C. Moore and Dr. J. B. Wilson.

All who knew her can say with implicit truth that she was a noble and true friend of all mankind and her beloved daughter, Mrs. Henry, can say that she was a devoted mother. She was an avowed Agnostic and faced death with a courage that was sublime and a resignation that was beautiful to contemplate. No fears of a Christian hell could ever torture that true heart. It was her personal request that her death be given publication in the Blade and she asked that upon her tombstone the following inscription should be carved:

MARY K. WILLIAMSON  
1822  
1907  
Agnostic  
I do not know  
Do you?

Here the power of orthodoxy to intimidate or terrify was a failure. Here was a courage that transcends the sublime. Self-poised as a star and pure as the polar snows, her death and burial was a distinct triumph over superstition.

Mrs. Williamson is survived by one sister, Mrs. Jane Fuller of Versailles, Ky.; and three daughters, the latter being our own Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, Mrs. Mary A. Corcoran and Mrs. Virginia MacBride, the latter of New York City. She was buried at Newport, Ky., her funeral address being delivered by Dr. J. B. Wilson.

#### OPINIONS OF THOMAS PAINE BY WORLD'S GREATEST His Character Shown.

"I lodge with my friend Paine; we breakfast, dine and sup together. The more I see of his interior, the more I like and respect him. I can not express how kind he has been to me; there is a simplicity of manner; a goodness of heart, and a strength of mind in him that I never knew a man to possess."—Lord Fitzgerald.

**Prophet of American Destiny.**  
"Paine, like Defoe, was the personation of English common sense. \* \* \* Paine was the Prophet of American Destiny—the great Pamphleteer of its Independence. \* \* \* He was the Thinker for the People. He found out the obvious thoughts of the period, and showed them to the nation and created those which were wanting. \* \* \* Paine's merits and demerits were all popular. His errors were broad and his virtues hearty. There was nothing small or mean about him. He was a strong man all through. The man who was the confidant of Burke (before the unhappy day when Burke's reason failed him), the counsellor of Franklin, and the friend and colleague of Washington, must have great qualities. \* \* \* If Paine was coarse, he had capacity and integrity; if the oak was gnarled, it had strength—if the ore was rough, there was gold in it. \* \* \* Let us do justice to him."—George Jacob Holyoake.

Through all the centuries no grander or greater being has ever set eyes upon the light of day than the author-hero of the American Declaration of Independence. From the ashes of defeat Liberty arose, grand and sublime, like a new Phoenix, at his bidding. At his command it was taken from the power of a crack-brained king to oppress the new nation. While brave men wept tears of grim despair he stirred their hearts to deeds of greater daring and urged on the fainting legions of the revolutionary army by the sheer force of his mighty will. The heart and pen of Paine never faltered and through him the victory was won. It is his right to share with Washington the glory of the new world, this petted child of the world's old age.

## CRUSHING REPLY TO FANATIC

Western Preacher Declares Educated Unbelievers Are Only Trained Criminals and Gets Solar Plexus From San Francisco Paper.

#### UNBELIEF COMES FROM LACK OF EVIDENCE

(BY A. A. BELL.)

Dr. H. C. Minton, professor of theology in the San Angelo Seminary, in a lecture delivered at the first Presbyterian Church at Berkeley, declared that "educated unbelievers are only trained criminals." The appended crushing reply is from the San Francisco Evening Post.

In the creed of the bigot an unbeliever is one who does not agree with him. "Unbelieving dogs" is the appellation which the Mohammedan applies to all Christians. "Mohammedanism" is the name which the Christian applies to the Mohammedan.

2. Belief in its most rational acceptance is the conclusion of the mind, based upon evidence. Unbelief is the result of a lack of evidence. There is, therefore, no merit in belief, or demerit in unbelief, unless the mind has accepted insufficient evidence to establish one, or refused reasonable evidence in arriving at the opposite state. If belief is merely the subject of the will, then creeds are not founded in truth, but are merely the result of a consenting mental attitude which may be chosen or dismissed by the mind as the voluntary act of the will.

3. The acceptance of the view that belief is a subject of the will degrades the body of religious doctrine from the profound and conscious convictions of the mind and reason. Unless the religious as well as other convictions of the mind flow from reason and conscience, they are merely the result of mental caprice, and may be taken on and laid off at will. If belief is the subject of the will, and any man may choose to believe anything, then the stake was a proper remedy for heresy. The heretical conclusions of the mind were not the result of honest conviction, superinduced by evidence, which justified itself to the reason of men, but the voluntarily assumed attitude of hostility towards the prevailing faith of the time. Heresy was therefore a voluntary offense, and not the result of either religious conscience or faith. The belief and opinions which are born of hearing and determination are in very truth the only real beliefs of mankind. Whatever is merely assented to by the will, founded on the conclusions of the mind based upon the systematic reasoning toward such conclusions, cannot in justice be characterized as belief. It may be assent, it may be toleration, it may be hypocrisy, but has no place in the convictions or judgments of men.

4. Since it is clear that belief is the result of evidence, it would be interesting to know whom Dr. Minton characterizes as unbelievers. He evidently refers to a class of persons to whom he applies this term, who, in his opinion, when they are educated become criminals. An intimation of the class to whom the doctor refers is found in subsequent statements in the same address. He says: "Our schools omit Christ and the Bible." The unbelievers referred to, then, must be those who do not agree with the prevailing orthodox faith of the time, and this is the class who fall under the condemnation of Dr. Minton and who, when educated, become "only trained criminals."

5. An examination of the prisons of California, made by a commission appointed by the governor of the state, disclosed the fact that nearly one percent of the criminals of the state accepted with unquestioning faith the commonly-received religious tenets of the time. They were in their trust, these unquestioning believers; yet they were criminals. They were uneducated believers, and therefore untrained criminals, according to the standards of Dr. Minton; but they were criminals just the same. There was no essential difference between the religious conclusions of the criminal and non-criminal classes, and this statement cannot be controverted by the testimony of the criminals themselves.

Durant, "The criminal of the same address." He says: "Our schools omit Christ and the Bible." The unbelievers referred to, then, must be those who do not agree with the prevailing orthodox faith of the time, and this is the class who fall under the condemnation of Dr. Minton and who, when educated, become "only trained criminals."

6. According to the standards of Dr. Minton, the entire Jewish race are unbelievers, and yet in all the history of America there has been but one Jew ever sentenced to the gallows in this country. Pagan Japan has never been cursed with the brigandage which has afflicted believing Italy and Spain, and yet in all the history of the world there has been no Jew among the adherents to the doctrines

of Confucius is quite as high as in any Christian country of the world. In the common observation of men who have had a large experience and a broad contact with their fellows, there are no marked differences between the standards of human duty adhered to by the believing or unbelieving classes of citizens.

7. Essentially criminal natures are such despite the creeds to which they yield credence. Penologists have never been able to correlate the criminal tendencies in the mind with the religious beliefs of the same mind. Not one per cent of those who die upon the scaffold could be classed as unbelievers. Nearly, if not quite, all prove by their penitence the latent acceptance in the mind, of the prevailing faith of the time.

8. The declaration, therefore, of Dr. Minton that "educated unbelievers are only trained criminals" must proceed from a spirit of intolerance and an inherent attribute of bigotry. It is a declaration that unbelief in its essence is criminal, and that education only enlarges and energizes its criminality. All the facts derived from the observation of the students of penology proclaim the fallacy of this conclusion.

I think the above is a complete reply to the assertion of Prof. Minton, and that it ought to be published in every liberal paper in the United States. Unbelievers are known all over the world as persons of the utmost veracity and integrity. Shelley, the poet, was noted for his virtue. Gibbon, the great historian, was the idol of society! Adam Smith, author of the "Wealth of Nations," declared that Hume, the historian and philosopher, was as nearly perfect as the frailty of human nature would permit. John Stuart Mill, called the Socrates of England, was an upright and honest, unswerving, evil, Girard, the philanthropist, was noted for his benevolence. Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, unbelievers in Christianity, were not "Educated Criminals." Some of the most noted writers and philosophers of the present day, although educated unbelievers are not criminals, and to make such an assertion is a slander, which Shakespeare labels "the foulest whisper of sin."

Professor Tyndall seems to have had in his mind such "gladiators of the pulpit" as the Rev. Dr. Minton when he said as published in "Fragments of Science."

"It may comfort some to know that there are many among us whom the gladiators of the pulpit would call Atheists and Materialists, whose lives, nevertheless, as tested by any accessible standard of morality, would contrast more than favorably with the lives of those who seek to stamp them with an offensive brand. When I say 'offensive,' I refer simply to the intention of those who use such terms, and not because Atheism of Materialism, when compared with many of the notions ventilated in the columns of religious newspapers, has any particular offensiveness for me. If I wished to find men who are scrupulous in their adherence to engagements, whose words are their deeds, and to whom moral shiftness of any kind is subjectively unknown, if I wanted a loving father, a faithful husband, an honorable neighbor, and a just citizen—I should seek him, and find him among the band of Atheists to whom I refer."

## TOLSTOY DENOUNCES CHURCH

And Declares It To Be An Institution Of Lies and Full of Evil—Predicts Other Countries Will Follow Example Set By France.

RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM  
ONLY ORIENTAL SYNONYMS.

(News Clipping.)  
"News dispatches from Paris to American newspapers state that

## GREATEST DISCOVERIES OF SCIENCE EVER MADE

GOD, SATAN AND HOLY GHOST ARE NOTHING BUT CREATIONS OF FICTION. HEAVEN AND HELL ARE ONLY MYTHS. CONSCIOUS LIFE IS EXTINGUISHED AT DEATH.

The Church of Humanity teaches these great discoveries through its organ, "The Truth About God," which it publishes monthly, and its school, "The Central Kansas Business College," which teaches Stenography, Typewriting, Bookkeeping, Commercial Arithmetic, and "The Truth About God" in a general course of study given by the temporary International instructor for the church.

The Church has 100 LIFE MEMBERS. It wants 900 more to found, organize and conduct. The first thousand members will be the founders and organizers of the CHURCH OF HUMANITY.

If you have loved ones you wish rescued from the idolatry of worshipping a dead man named Jesus, a myth named God, you should join this Church and it will aid you in freeing them, and securing for them posterity from becoming idolaters by teaching them The Truth About God.

Write to W. H. KERR, 2210 Broadway, Great Bend, Kan., for blank application for membership information about the college, and send 50 cents for a year's subscription to the "TRUTH ABOUT GOD." Dr. H. K.

Count Tolstoy has written a letter to Paul Sabater, apropos of the latter's recent book on the disestablishment of the church in France, in which the famous Russian author predicts the possible reduction of all the Christian countries of the west to a state of vassalage to the Japanese and Oriental peoples. He bases his predictions on the ground that it is only in the Orient that religion and patriotism are synonymous.

In this letter Count Tolstoy displays his old-time vigor of style and clearness of ideas. He says, in part:

"Religion is the cause of evil. I tell you church falsehood and evil. I frankly I cannot agree with those who believe the church is an organization indispensable to religion. The church has ever been a lying institution which, in seeking for temporal advantages, has perverted and distorted the true Christian doctrine. All the concordats have been for it, nothing but compacts with the state whereby the church supported the state in return for material advantages. 'Christianity has ever been simply a pretext for the church. I may be told that there have been and still are in the Catholic world men and women of holy life, but I answer that these sainted lives are not due to the church but rather in spite of the church. 'In spite of all the efforts of church and state to unite the two principles of love, Christianity (love, humility and kindness), and that of the state (physical force and violence), the contradiction has become in our time so flagrant that a revolution is bound to come.

"Several symptoms prove this. First, the religions movement is not confined to France, but exists in all Christian countries; second, the revolution in Russia; third, the extraordinary military and industrial progress which is being made in the Orient, in China and especially in Japan. The present movement which is going on, not only in Catholic countries, but in the whole world is, I believe, nothing but the unrest accompanying the exit from the dilemma."

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## We Do Job PRINTING

#### WARI!

The Elgin and Waltham Watch Co. has indirectly declared war on John C. Duescher of the Hampden Watch Co., and smaller competitors. By continually reducing prices they hope to drive out of business and force them into a Trust. But John C. Duescher, a millionaire, who employs United States soldiers, will not join them in their nefarious scheme. He promptly meets all reductions made by the other companies until now watches are actually sold far below value. Note the latest quotations: 23 jewels, \$10.00; 25 jewels, \$12.00; 27 jewels, \$15.00; 29 jewels, \$18.00; 31 jewels, \$20.00; 33 jewels, \$22.00; 35 jewels, \$25.00; 37 jewels, \$28.00; 39 jewels, \$30.00; 41 jewels, \$32.00; 43 jewels, \$35.00; 45 jewels, \$38.00; 47 jewels, \$40.00; 49 jewels, \$42.00; 51 jewels, \$45.00; 53 jewels, \$48.00; 55 jewels, \$50.00; 57 jewels, \$52.00; 59 jewels, \$55.00; 61 jewels, \$58.00; 63 jewels, \$60.00; 65 jewels, \$62.00; 67 jewels, \$65.00; 69 jewels, \$68.00; 71 jewels, \$70.00; 73 jewels, \$72.00; 75 jewels, \$75.00; 77 jewels, \$78.00; 79 jewels, \$80.00; 81 jewels, \$82.00; 83 jewels, \$85.00; 85 jewels, \$88.00; 87 jewels, \$90.00; 89 jewels, \$92.00; 91 jewels, \$95.00; 93 jewels, \$98.00; 95 jewels, \$100.00; 97 jewels, \$102.00; 99 jewels, \$105.00; 101 jewels, \$108.00; 103 jewels, \$110.00; 105 jewels, \$112.00; 107 jewels, \$115.00; 109 jewels, \$118.00; 111 jewels, \$120.00; 113 jewels, \$122.00; 115 jewels, \$125.00; 117 jewels, \$128.00; 119 jewels, \$130.00; 121 jewels, \$132.00; 123 jewels, \$135.00; 125 jewels, \$138.00; 127 jewels, \$140.00; 129 jewels, \$142.00; 131 jewels, \$145.00; 133 jewels, \$148.00; 135 jewels, \$150.00; 137 jewels, \$152.00; 139 jewels, \$155.00; 141 jewels, \$158.00; 143 jewels, \$160.00; 145 jewels, \$162.00; 147 jewels, \$165.00; 149 jewels, \$168.00; 151 jewels, \$170.00; 153 jewels, \$172.00; 155 jewels, \$175.00; 157 jewels, \$178.00; 159 jewels, \$180.00; 161 jewels, \$182.00; 163 jewels, \$185.00; 165 jewels, \$188.00; 167 jewels, \$190.00; 169 jewels, \$192.00; 171 jewels, \$195.00; 173 jewels, \$198.00; 175 jewels, \$200.00; 177 jewels, \$202.00; 179 jewels, \$205.00; 181 jewels, \$208.00; 183 jewels, \$210.00; 185 jewels, \$212.00; 187 jewels, \$215.00; 189 jewels, \$218.00; 191 jewels, \$220.00; 193 jewels, \$222.00; 195 jewels, \$225.00; 197 jewels, \$228.00; 199 jewels, \$230.00; 201 jewels, \$232.00; 203 jewels, \$235.00; 205 jewels, \$238.00; 207 jewels, \$240.00; 209 jewels, \$242.00; 211 jewels, \$245.00; 213 jewels, \$248.00; 215 jewels, \$250.00; 217 jewels, \$252.00; 219 jewels, \$255.00; 221 jewels, \$258.00; 223 jewels, \$260.00; 225 jewels, \$262.00; 227 jewels, \$265.00; 229 jewels, \$268.00; 231 jewels, \$270.00; 233 jewels, \$272.00; 235 jewels, \$275.00; 237 jewels, \$278.00; 239 jewels, \$280.00; 241 jewels, \$282.00; 243 jewels, \$285.00; 245 jewels, \$288.00; 247 jewels, \$290.00; 249 jewels, \$292.00; 251 jewels, \$295.00; 253 jewels, \$298.00; 255 jewels, \$300.00; 257 jewels, \$302.00; 259 jewels, \$305.00; 261 jewels, \$308.00; 263 jewels, \$310.00; 265 jewels, \$312.00; 267 jewels, \$315.00; 269 jewels, \$318.00; 271 jewels, \$320.00; 273 jewels, \$322.00; 275 jewels, \$325.00; 277 jewels, \$328.00; 279 jewels, \$330.00; 281 jewels, \$332.00; 283 jewels, \$335.00; 285 jewels, \$338.00; 287 jewels, \$340.00; 289 jewels, \$342.00; 291 jewels, \$345.00; 293 jewels, \$348.00; 295 jewels, \$350.00; 297 jewels, \$352.00; 299 jewels, \$355.00; 301 jewels, \$358.00; 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487 jewels, \$590.00; 489 jewels, \$592.00; 491 jewels, \$595.00; 493 jewels, \$598.00; 495 jewels, \$600.00; 497 jewels, \$602.00; 499 jewels, \$605.00; 501 jewels, \$608.00; 503 jewels, \$610.00; 505 jewels, \$612.00; 507 jewels, \$615.00; 509 jewels, \$618.00; 511 jewels, \$620.00; 513 jewels, \$622.00; 515 jewels, \$625.00; 517 jewels, \$628.00; 519 jewels, \$630.00; 521 jewels, \$632.00; 523 jewels, \$635.00; 525 jewels, \$638.00; 527 jewels, \$640.00; 529 jewels, \$642.00; 531 jewels, \$645.00; 533 jewels, \$648.00; 535 jewels, \$650.00; 537 jewels, \$652.00; 539 jewels, \$655.00; 541 jewels, \$658.00; 543 jewels, \$660.00; 545 jewels, \$662.00; 547 jewels, \$665.00; 549 jewels, \$668.00; 551 jewels, \$670.00; 553 jewels, \$672.00; 555 jewels, \$675.00; 557 jewels, \$678.00; 559 jewels, \$680.00; 561 jewels, \$682.00; 563 jewels, \$685.00; 565 jewels, \$688.00; 567 jewels, \$690.00; 569 jewels, \$692.00; 571 jewels, \$695.00; 573 jewels, \$698.00; 575 jewels, \$700.00; 577 jewels, \$702.00; 579 jewels, \$705.00; 581 jewels, \$708.00; 583 jewels, \$710.00; 585 jewels, \$712.00; 587 jewels, \$715.00; 589 jewels, \$718.00; 591 jewels, \$720.00; 593 jewels, \$722.00; 595 jewels, \$725.00; 597 jewels, \$728.00; 599 jewels, \$730.00; 601 jewels, \$732.00; 603 jewels, \$735.00; 605 jewels, \$738.00; 607 jewels, \$740.00; 609 jewels, \$742.00; 611 jewels, \$745.00; 613 jewels, \$748.00; 615 jewels, \$750.00; 617 jewels, \$752.00; 619 jewels, \$755.00; 621 jewels, \$758.00; 623 jewels, \$760.00; 625 jewels, \$762.00; 627 jewels, \$765.00; 629 jewels, \$768.00; 631 jewels, \$770.00; 633 jewels, \$772.00; 635 jewels, \$775.00; 637 jewels, \$778.00; 639 jewels, \$780.00; 641 jewels, \$782.00; 643 jewels, \$785.00; 645 jewels, \$788.00; 647 jewels, \$790.00; 649 jewels, \$792.00; 651 jewels, \$795.00; 653 jewels, \$798.00; 655 jewels, \$800.00; 657 jewels, \$802.00; 659 jewels, \$805.00; 661 jewels, \$808.00; 663 jewels, \$810.00; 665 jewels, \$812.00; 667 jewels, \$815.00; 669 jewels, \$818.00; 671 jewels, \$820.00; 673 jewels, \$822.00; 675 jewels, \$825.00; 677 jewels, \$828.00; 679 jewels, \$830.00; 681 jewels, \$832.00; 683 jewels, \$835.00; 685 jewels, \$838.00; 687 jewels, \$840.00; 689 jewels, \$842.00; 691 jewels, \$845.00; 693 jewels, \$848.00; 695 jewels, \$850.00; 697 jewels, \$852.00; 699 jewels, \$855.00; 701 jewels, \$858.00; 703 jewels, \$860.00; 705 jewels, \$862.00; 707 jewels, \$865.00; 709 jewels, \$868.00; 711 jewels, \$870.00; 713 jewels, \$872.00; 715 jewels, \$875.00; 717 jewels, \$878.00; 719 jewels, \$880.00; 721 jewels, \$882.00; 723 jewels, \$885.00; 725 jewels, \$888.00; 727 jewels, \$890.00; 729 jewels, \$892.00; 731 jewels, \$895.00; 733 jewels, \$898.00; 735 jewels, \$900.00; 737 jewels, \$902.00; 739 jewels, \$905.00; 741 jewels, \$908.00; 743 jewels, \$910.00; 745 jewels, \$912.00; 747 jewels, \$915.00; 749 jewels, \$918.00; 751 jewels, \$920.00; 753 jewels, \$922.00; 755 jewels, \$925.00; 757 jewels, \$928.00; 759 jewels, \$930.00; 761 jewels, \$932.00; 763 jewels, \$935.00; 765 jewels, \$938.00; 767 jewels, \$940.00; 769 jewels, \$942.00; 771 jewels, \$945.00; 773 jewels, \$948.00; 775 jewels, \$950.00; 777 jewels, \$952.00; 779 jewels, \$955.00; 781 jewels, \$958.00; 783 jewels, \$960.00; 785 jewels, \$962.00; 787 jewels, \$965.00; 789 jewels, \$968.00; 791 jewels, \$970.00; 793 jewels, \$972.00; 795 jewels, \$975.00; 797 jewels, \$978.00; 799 jewels, \$980.



## ROME BOOK

(Continued From Page One)

through Europe without the trouble and expense of going.

Is he not about the first real American who has crossed the pond and showed us what he really saw, and what things are over there.

Mark Twain did pretty well, but he was too funny to be vivid. This book gives us the truth of a photo, with the wit and humor of a cartoon.

Most people go to Europe out of love for its traditions. Dr. Wilson was sent to report on those conditions and the best of a world they have made; and he has done that as none other ever did. As President Roosevelt would say, "Nuff sed." Read that book, Letter From M. Ezekiel, the Noted Sculptor.

Rome, December 3, 1906.

My Dear Doctor Wilson:  
Your fine book, "A Trip to Rome," has given me very great pleasure by its frank, open and acute observations of Roman conditions of today.

Enrico Troilo, Podrecca and De Basile are all very much interested in your book and each will review it. They send you many congratulations and good wishes in which I join most heartily. Yours very sincerely,  
M. EZEKIEL.

A Fitting Monument.

Ma'beton, Ga.

Dr. J. B. Wilson:  
"A Trip to Rome" is a grand and fitting monument to your diligent study as a prose and verse writer, and to your humanitarian interests in the wrongs of humanity.

The historical record of the first International Prethought Congress is of equal importance to the book as a whole, deserves to rank high among the Liberal classics.

WILLIAM M. MARTIN.

From L. F. Griswold.

Meriden, Conn.

Dr. J. B. Wilson, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 9th to my father received and in answer would say that he was greatly pleased to hear from you. He received a letter from Mrs. J. K. Henry the same day and I don't believe you have any medicine in your chest that could have done him as much good, he was just radiant, and as you know he is now 82 years old and a man from old friends as you and Mrs. Henry, does him more good than all the medicine on earth.

I suggested to my father if you could get out this work and make profit enough so that you might make profit enough so that you might make the trip to the Holy Land and touch up those people and their customs with that caustic pen of yours, what a work it would be.

Mr. Moore in "Dog Fennel" was very amusing, but we would like to see your description of that "Promised Land" in print.

Speaking of your book, "A Trip to Rome," we have enjoyed it very much. I would get to reading it evenings long after my bed time and my wife would holler at me to come to bed and unwillingly I would have to break off, then she got interested and I finally had to holler at her to cut it off. GAL. THREE—BLADE—463FW and come to bed, so you see your efforts are appreciated down in old puritanical Connecticut, only we want more.

My father's health is very good considering his age, and any time hereafter he is feeling blue I am going to ask you to prescribe for him by just sending him a kindly line, and in conclusion would say that anything in our power that we can do to help you in your work of getting out the new edition, we stand ready to our limit.

Yours truly,

L. F. GRISWOLD.

Meriden, Conn.

## ROMISH EDITOR

(Continued From Page One)

Instead of consulting him in his afflictions, she snarled at him and bade him curse God and die. Saul tells his son Jonathan that he is the son of base, vile woman, and Sampson's mistress betrayed him to the Philistines. David's wife, the daughter of Saul, calls him a silly fool for dancing before the ark naked, in the presence of the women of Jerusalem. Solomon's wives made a pagan idol of him in his old age. Jesseb, the wife of King Ahab, used cosmetics and was perhaps one of the first painted women, she was besides a murderer, having caused the murder of Nathan so her husband might get his vineyard. Judith went as a prostitute to the tent of Holofernes whose head she cut off when he was drunk and asleep. Lastic Miriam, the wife of King Herod, made her daughter ask the king for the head of John the Baptist, which was given to her in a dish.

I might also mention the case of Lot's wife where curiosity was her undoing, also Lot's daughter whose conduct was to say the least slightly immodest. Then there was Petiphah's wife who tried to "make a date" with Joseph and Mary Magdalene, who, if

reports be true, was formed of seven devils not to say anything of that other Mary, who told the remarkable story of an over-shedding by the Holy Ghost and made it (the story I mean) stick for 1900 years.

I wish to ask in all seriousness is the Bible the proper kind of literature for a parent to put in the hands of a growing daughter? Can you conscientiously do so and say, my child search the scriptures, model your life and actions after the characters you find there? I read with interest the article headed "Angels Fear to Tread" in the issue of December 23 and would like to know what the writer means. Taking the Bible as a guide, which I suppose he does, as he says is a Christian what one of the questions has he announced to my mind put one if it were not for trespassing too far on your valuable space I would like to take up and analyze his answers in detail sufficient it however to say that his work is as contradictory as the book from which he quotes.

## PREACHER

### JUMPS THE TRACK

Declares the Bible is inaccurate and Teaches Every Conceivable Doctrine and is Full of Vice and Wickedness.

ACCOUNT OF CREATION IS UNSCIENTIFIC.

(News Clipping.)

Under a Chicago date line the daily papers have given the following interesting account of the publication of a new book on religious topics: CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—Rev. Dr. Wm. C. Selleck, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Providence, R. I., has just written a book, "The New Appreciation of the Bible" in which he tears down many of the angles of the orthodox Christians, lands the heavier criticism, and presents a new view of the Bible's value.

"By false methods of interpretation or the absence of all method," his book says, "the Bible has been made to teach almost every conceivable doctrine and to support many a terrible wickedness—slavery, polygamy and the subjugation of women—and the tap root of all these enormous terrors and unwholesome actions has been the idea of the plenary inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures."

"When this idea finally faded out of the popular mind, being replaced by the more valid conception, some of the perversions and absurdities of religious doctrine will pass away which have claimed, and still claim, their tens of thousands of adherents; some hoary superstitions and cruelties which have darkened our world will pass away."

Dr. Selleck declares the Bible should be considered merely as a piece of literature, as a "collection of ancient writings—of a single book, but a library of 66 different books."

Dr. Selleck states also that the Bible is full of inaccuracies, and that the story of the creation is unscientific and cannot be proved by the Bible, and that the real authors of many of the books of the New and Old Testaments are unknown, and that Christ was not quoted until a generation after his death.

Nominated For Mayor.

Lexington, Ky.—After reading the sensible articles by our most worthy Dr. J. R. Wilson I was brave enough to wish, as I'd often wished before that all good women and true men only vote. If I could have my say in the government I'd have Dr. Wilson President, James E. Hughes Mayor of Lexington and Dr. Jonett, of this city, Health Officer. The time is not far distant when men of brain and heart will be at the head of affairs. For the benefit of my own fatherless children I'm going to ask space in your truthful paper, the freedom of experience. I've been handicapped so long. Mr. Hughes, you have a call speak on all on the role of man, kind who can't be lost—MRS SPEARS

Wants Good Reading.

Leesburg, Ga.—Enclosed please find three dollars, one dollar and 50 cents for renewal to Blade; one dollar and 15 cents for Rome Book and 16 cents for the Oration over Captain Henry. Let balance go for the good of the dear old Blade. Would have renewed sooner but have been sick as I—ever since last August and just now getting up and able to read the Blade and it is O. K. and I would not want to do without it if it cost two dollars.—J. J. DURHAM.

## GEOLOGY

### PUTS GENESIS AWAY

When Revealed Religion Runs Against Demonstrated Fact It is the Revelation That Gets the Worst of the Conflict.

WHAT A UNIVERSITY

LECTURE DID FOR ONE MAN.

BY WILLIAM COOPER.

In a recent issue of the *Blade* you commented on the geological argument, and the strong influence it gives in favor of Prethought, though comparatively few Prethinkers for low the study of this very interesting branch of natural science.

I think it was about the year 1871 that I first ran up against my first experience, by attending a lecture by a university professor, on the ice age, and as I was at that time a Sunday School teacher, my readers can imagine the chaos it caused with my religious views.

From that time on to the present, geology has been a subject of keen interest to me, and I note every new discovery, as being not only an addition to science, but a weakening of the mosaic account of the creation, on which the whole fabric of theology is built.

I think it by far the strongest point in the argument of the Prethinkers, and its pity its rudiments and principles are not more widely known to freethinkers in general. The forces of nature are a most telling book, when once a willing student desires to study same, and books both for student are to be had for a mere trifle the learner, and the more experienced Appleton, publishers, of New York City, have a first class work, as a first book, published at one dollar, and there are others in the market, but like Appleton's best, as well this, is, as the recognized book for university use. We'll take the lesson of Mr. Uin. In regard to its age, as this is a clear case of certainty, and is such a direct set-off against the Biblical age of the world, viz., 6,000 years.

The eruptions of this volcano have been very regular, certainly about once in every twenty-five years, the general thickness of each eruption being about one foot. The total height being 11,000 feet, and all built up of eruption matter it is an easy matter to set at the age of Uin. There is a gorge on one side where the layers are easily counted, and there are about 3,000 feet of lava layers laid bare, so here we get our clear estimate of the age of the volcano, as there must have been a period of at least 30,000 years to build up what is in sight.

This is the estimate of Prof. J. L. Le Conte, the eminent geologist, who wrote the text book from which these figures are culled. The facts then clearly show that the Mosaic account of creation cannot hold its own, and its the same whichever way we turn. Another point it is as well to mention in this connection, is that Etna stands out what is really a recent strata of the earth's crust, this territory strata is so close to the present, or psychologic era that it is a mere nothing compared to the millions upon millions of years, that have passed since this earth of ours formed itself by nebulous vapors and gases, estimated by Lord Kelvin, a well known eminent scientist at 400 million years.

Hence it is an argument striven from the fountain head of science, and of such a substantial nature, that no theological scheming can overthrow, and an amounting shock to the subject, is the fact, that in the same university where these subjects are put before the students, the same old dogmas on the Biblical account of creation were doled out, and the result is that there are many turned out of our leading universities, either well on the way to become freethinkers or actually so.

A Harvard man, who had had his four years there, quite recently told me that few men left there fully believing in Christianity.

Prof. T. H. Huxley, one of the foremost men of science in the memory of those living, says regarding the argument of science and theology "My belief is in an argument striven from the fountain head of science, and of such a substantial nature, that no theological scheming can overthrow, and an amounting shock to the subject, is the fact, that in the same university where these subjects are put before the students, the same old dogmas on the Biblical account of creation were doled out, and the result is that there are many turned out of our leading universities, either well on the way to become freethinkers or actually so."

Importance than may be allotted to these."

Again, the whole scientific world has been stirred by the recent discoveries of very early types of remains of human species, in Douglas county, Nebraska, and as their find is of a quite recent date, really within the last few months, there is little doubt but what we are on the threshold of more discoveries of perhaps still greater importance.

### WHAT OUR FRIENDS SAY

A. A. Snow.—Personal sickness has prevented supervision of the make-up, and the matter you speak of has been inadvertently omitted. Am now able to look after it.

W. C. Daly.—It is impossible to send you the letter, or card, ordering the change of address for John Kaiser. It has been lost. You are probably correct about the matter being a Christian trick.

D. Webster Groh.—We deeply regret not having some word from you for the Pale memorial issue. Still we must help it and your advice is good. Your praise cheering.

J. J. Durham.—Glad to know of your improvement and thank you for your kind interest.

Emmett Joyner.—It is the same old trick and that game has been played for many years. It is high time to give it a rest.

O. W. Hannigan.—Thanks for encouragement. Get married, my boy and wake up.

Louis A. Manz.—Your sentiments are absolutely true and are not according, my, how much faster we would travel!

C. Amory Stevens.—Many thanks for the articles. We shall put them to good use when an opportunity occurs.

Mrs. Henry Kaiser.—It is always gratifying to receive such a strong letter from a woman. But for the reason the church would have perished long ago. Thanks.

Dr. L. S. Stoll.—You are safe in throwing down the challenge, for there is no priest or preacher in the land dare to take you up.

P. P. Ball, Sr.—Seldom do we receive such a letter as yours. It is by far the most encouraging that has reached this office since we have been at the helm. It does a man good to receive such good cheer. Thanks.

Sends Renewal.

Hovellville, Pa.—Please send enclosed money for subscription for Blue Grass Blade. Please put me down for one copy of Mr. Moore's book.—MILTON HOOVER.

Book.—MILTON HOOVER.

Just Late: That's All.

Birmingham, Ala.—What's the matter with the Blade? Our weekly dose of religion did not come to hand Sunday last. Write and let us wretched sinners know who is to blame, you or P. M. With many wishes for you and the Blade to boom, I am yours as a fellow sinner.—LOUIS B. SHOENFELD.

Wishes a Happy Year.

Rising Sun, Ind.—I send you \$2.00 for which you will continue to send the Blade for a year. I have neglected to send subscription when due, but hope it is not too late to do good. Wishing the Blade the greatest success and the editor a Happy New Year, in fact any and all good things which rightfully belong to an editor who edits a Prethought paper and does not have the whole freethought patronage of the country, it seems that we all should do our little mite and keep the work going on.—J. P. HEMPHILL.

From a Valued Friend.

New York.—I have your two bundles of Blades of December 23, 1906. As there are likely more than I shall have an occasion to use should you ever find yourself short or any one else seeking please advise me.

I mail you under separate cover a few marked newspaper sheets of perhaps passing interest. The article by Bernard Shaw on the Personal God question and kindred religious thought impressed me as very practical and one of the strongest that I ever read. And yet how very many there are among the ignorant, thoughtless and profane who know or think of Bernard Shaw except as a notoriously disreputable dramatist and the very last who would reach the high plane of thought that the article in question proves.—C. AMORY STEVENS.

## FOOLS

### GATHER AND WAIT

For the Coming of the Messiah and Receive Gift of New Tongues. Strange Antics of a New Religious Sect in Ohio.

FAKIRS AT WORK

CASTING OUT DEVILS.

(Newspaper Clipping.)

The Post, of Cleveland, Ohio, publishes the following account of a new religious sect in that State:

At the three churches held at the First Presbytery Church Sunday, the auditorium was crowded to the doors with member and others, who were anxious to hear those with the "gift of tongues."

After the morning service the members of the church held a meeting to determine whether or not to continue the revivals. Many members believe they are not accomplishing the purpose for which they were instituted. The pastor, Rev. J. Walter Malone, is enthusiastic over the results.

Regina Health.

News of the casting of three demons from Mrs. Mary Stough has caused a sensation. Mrs. Stough, who had been in bed for months before the three demons were cast out of her, is now gaining strength, she declares.

Two Akron ministers have arrived in Cleveland with Miss Rosa Adams, an Akron girl who "speaks in tongues." Miss Adams says five devils were cast out of her. She says she felt them tearing from her very flesh.

Saturday night, while a young woman was testifying in a strange tongue, Malone said he believed every word she said, although he could not understand the language. A Russian, who understands French and other foreign tongues, was at the morning services. He was unable to identify the language. Anna Cooper, one of the Akron revivalists, spoke at various times during the service.

A man named Kramer, who claims to have the gift of tongues, while testifying Saturday night said his tongue did not like to speak English any more. Several copies of having demons driven from their bodies.

It was announced that the day of the Messiah was close at hand. Men and women who had thrown themselves at full length on the floor before the altar were told to dress themselves in white, waiting the day. The company was promised in an impassioned address by the wife of the pastor, Malone.

"This does not mean," she cried "that the end of the world is at hand. The signs cannot be wrong. They mean that Christ is coming to reign in the world. The day is close at hand. Prepare."

WAR!

The Elgin and Waltham Watch Co.'s have indirectly declared war on John C. Dueber, of the Hampden Watch Co., and smaller competitors. By continually reducing prices they hope to drive out competitors or force them into a Trust. But John C. Dueber is a millionaire, who employs Union Labor only—will not let them in their native land. He promptly meets all reductions made by the other companies, until now watches are actually sold far below value. Note the latest quotations: 23 jewels, \$9.75; "Duober W. Co." 21 jewels, \$15.50; "Duober W. Co." 21 jewels, \$15.50. Above all in silver the severe case proposal, in 20-year gold-filled case \$3.00. Every watch new from factory and guaranteed to pass R. P. Inspectors.

The 17 jeweled (camped, adjusted, \$8.17 jeweled, not adjusted, \$7.15 jeweled, \$5.75 jeweled, \$4.50. In 20-year gold-filled case \$3.00, all pre-paid with guarantee. Buy now! When this war is over you will pay 30 per cent more.

WHEN IN SEARCH OF A DIAMOND Engagement Ring, Diamond Button, Locket or Pin, don't you wish you could correctly judge quality and value and buy them first hand from the Cutters and Importers and thus save 20 per cent or the dealers' profit?

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